FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
NEWARK	DALLAS	2/11/64	2/6/64

TITLE OF CASE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD, aka.

REPORT MADE BY: JOHN T. MURPHY — TYPED BY: spa

CHARACTER OF CASE: IS - R

REFERENCE

Bureau airtel to Newark, 1/31/64.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that DELGADO had previously claimed that OSWALD had become proficient in Spanish. During the current interview, this fact was gone into in detail with DELGADO, first pointing out to him that DELGADO himself is not proficient in Spanish since he used English intermingled in his Spanish, admitted he had poor grammar and could not spell. He then admitted his earlier statements were exaggerations on his part.

It appears that DELGADO is proud of his ability to speak the Spanish language and endeavors to create the impression his linguistic abilities are greater than they actually are. For example, during the current interview, he described himself

APPROVED — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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CC-645 2/19/64

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EX 104

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Notations

Section 97

as having a much greater language ability than Special Agent RICHARD B. MURDOCK, whose ability in the Spanish language is considered excellent. In claiming this superiority, he considered SA MURDOCK's ability to be in the scholastic field while he considered himself better qualified in the speaking language.

When DELGADO previously described his trip to Mexico, he had furnished the name of Private WATTS as one who had accompanied him. He was closely questioned concerning the trip and steadfastly maintained such a trip was made and that OSWALD definitely accompanied them. He admitted he could not name but only guessed at the name Private WATTS. He stated since the early interviews he has been thinking about this and concluded it was not the name Private WATTS but does not recall at all who the other Marines were.

DELGADO was closely questioned regarding his allegation that he believed OSWALD must have "penciled in" his score in order to qualify and was pressed for specifics regarding this statement. DELGADO admitted his earlier remarks were occasioned by his opinion OSWALD was not particularly interested in firearms training. He felt anyone with as little interest in such training as OSWALD had exhibited in his presence would not be a good shot and would not have qualified if his true score were recorded. He admitted as far as he knows it would have been impossible for OSWALD to personally have entered a false score.

With regard to DELGADO's claim he had observed certain material in OSWALD's locker, he admitted during the current interview he had never seen any written material which he could specifically identify as emanating from the Cuban Consulate. He did claim to have seen some foreign language material in the locker but due to his inability to understand any foreign language he admitted he could not identify it specifically.

It is the opinion of the Newark Office that DELGADO, a young Puerto Rican of limited education, has exaggerated the extent of his knowledge of OSWALD during the previous interviews. Based on the interviews conducted with DELGADO together with interviews about him with others associated with him, it would appear that DELGADO would at any opportunity magnify his own importance. It is felt that only after repeated interviews could the basic facts be determined and beliefs and opinions be distinguished from actual knowledge. It appears evident that DELGADO's pertinent knowledge of OSWALD is extremely limited

and that they had barely more than a casual acquaintance, at best, for a few months in 1959, while both were teen-agers in the service.

LEAD

NEWARK

AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY: Will maintain in pending status for possible future investigation.

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COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JOHN T. MURPHY
Date: February 11, 1964
Office: Newark, New Jersey

Field Office File #: 105-15291
Bureau File #: 105-82555

Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis: SP/4 NELSON DELGADO, U.S. Army, in U.S. Marines and knew OSWALD from July, 1958, to July, 1959. Recalled OSWALD favored CASTRO's activities in Cuba. Never heard OSWALD state he himself communist but did praise socialist form of government. OSWALD mentioned route to Russia through Mexico and Cuba. Assisted OSWALD in learning Spanish words and phrases but did not learn too much. OSWALD allegedly contacted Cuban Consulate, Los Angeles. Stated OSWALD qualified in only rifle practice in which Marine company took part. DELGADO, OSWALD and two Marines took pleasure week end trip to Tijuana, Mexico, in June or July, 1959. DELGADO never saw OSWALD after July, 1959, and only recognized him from photograph at time of assassination. Unable to furnish any other pertinent information.

-P-

DETAILS:

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SP/4 NELSON DELGADO, Battery D, 4th Missile Battalion, 71st Artillery, Holmdel Site, Holmdel, New Jersey, advised he previously furnished information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in this matter; however, after having additional time to recollect and reflect on topics discussed concerning LEE HARVEY OSWALD, he now felt information previously furnished by him consisted in part of supposition and opinion rather than specific, actual facts. He desired now to furnish more exact, factual information based on his association and knowledge of OSWALD.

DELGADO stated he was born June 3, 1939, Brooklyn, New York, and resides at 30 Oakwood Road, Leonardo, New Jersey, with his wife. He was a member of the United States Marine Corps from November, 1956, to November 1, 1959, Serial Number 16 44 884, and received an honorable discharge. He enlisted in the United States Army November 2, 1960, and is presently assigned as a Mess Steward, Battery D.

DELGADO was assigned to Marine Control Squadron 9, Santa Ana, California, from July 1, 1958, to July, 1959, as a radar operator and lived in Quonset Hut 34 during this time. OSWALD was assigned to the same squadron and at times they worked together with the result they became somewhat friendly. In January, 1959, OSWALD transferred to Hut 34 and on occasions they would discuss the situation in Cuba and CASTRO in particular. DELGADO recalled OSWALD was in favor of CASTRO's activities, as he himself then was, but he never heard OSWALD state he was a communist or talk about Russia. OSWALD did praise a socialist form of government, according to DELGADO, and had Marx' book, "Das Capital", available but DELGADO never saw him reading it.

It is DELGADO's recollection that at one time OSWALD mentioned to DELGADO one could get to Russia by way of Mexico and Cuba but DELGADO cannot remember how this matter came up. He had thought they were discussing the "two mathematicians who defected" but subsequently he realized these men had not defected until around June, 1960, and he had last seen OSWALD in July, 1959. He commented that his recollection of OSWALD's statement regarding entering Russia via Mexico and Cuba is extremely vague.

On 2/6/64 at Holmdel, New Jersey File # Newark 105-15291

by SA ROBERT E. ROETZEL
SA JOHN T. MURPHY / spa Date dictated 2/11/64

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DELGADO mentioned he himself at this time speaks Spanish mainly understood by Puerto Ricans and while he knew OSWALD he tried to help OSWALD learn some words and phrases of the language. He stated he himself cannot put the language on paper since he cannot spell and uses poor grammar and, therefore, considered OSWALD did not learn too much from him while they were together; definitely not enough to speak the language to any degree. Since DELGADO himself does not read, write or understand any other language, he declared he was not in any position to comment whether OSWALD was able to read, write or understand any other foreign language. DELGADO noted other Marines would come to him asking for a particular word or phrase in Spanish but he would not consider this as teaching them Spanish.

DELGADO stated it is his best present recollection that OSWALD had told him he had contacted the Cuban Consulate, Los Angeles, California, on matters not known to DELGADO. DELGADO commented he was not able to confirm this since he never accompanied OSWALD to the Consulate and never observed any specific mail received by OSWALD which could be identified by DELGADO as coming from the Consulate.

DELGADO advised that because they were not in a "line company" he and OSWALD were required to fire the rifle only once a year and they did this in the spring of 1959. He stated OSWALD must have qualified since he did not have to return for a make-up shoot after the only day he and OSWALD were together on the range.

DELGADO mentioned that either in June or July, 1959, he was asked by two Marines, whom he recalled as Negroes, if he would drive them in his car to Tijuana, Mexico, on a Saturday and return on the next day. He asked OSWALD to go along to keep him company and while there they visited a bar, each picked up a girl for the night, and returned to the base as planned on the following day. DELGADO stated he had been to Tijuana a number of times before, but only knew of OSWALD going there on this one occasion. He could not recall the names of the other Marines who accompanied him on this trip since he was only with them for a short period of time.

In May or early June, 1959, DELGADO declared, he became disillusioned about CASTRO; and, due to this, he and OSWALD had a difference of opinion with the result they became less friendly and DELGADO was transferred to another hut after requesting a change. He went on leave in July, 1959, and he never saw OSWALD after that time. On the day of the assassination of President KENNEDY, he heard the name of the alleged assassin,

LEE HARVEY OSWALD, but the name meant nothing to him at the time. It was not until he saw OSWALD's picture on television that it came to him that OSWALD was the Marine whom he had known during the period described.

DELGADO expressed complete cooperation in furnishing information to the best of his knowledge, but indicated that since the events took place more than four years ago and since his youthfulness while in the Marines should be taken into consideration, he declared he was unable to furnish any other pertinent information than set forth above.